

attack might come; they just knew of the threat. Nonetheless, those marines carried on, guiding countless innocent civilians to safety.

His father Darin put it best. He said:

That's just the type of man that he was, doing what he needed to do and getting the job done for those that couldn't do it for themselves, and he was standing out front leading his men.

You see, Staff Sergeant Hoover demonstrated uncommon courage in fulfilling his duty that day, as with all other days in which he valiantly served.

This was not Mr. Hoover's first deployment to Afghanistan. In fact, he served three tours of duty there in his 11 years in the Marine Corps. He knew what war and Afghanistan were like. He decided to carry on and continue serving because that is what he had committed to do. Since high school, he knew he wanted to be a marine specifically. His father said that "he was dead set on it."

When the news in Afghanistan developed, Staff Sergeant Hoover told his family he wanted to be in the action to help with the evacuation mission. He died doing what he loved: serving his country and leading his men.

Staff Sergeant Hoover was the oldest of the 13 servicemembers killed in this attack. His life had been defined by his love of family and of country. He was committed to serving, and he lived and gave his life, showing the last full measure of devotion, demonstrating exactly what it means to be a U.S. marine.

Staff Sergeant Hoover leaves a legacy with his family, the State of Utah, and our Nation. He represents the best among us and the commitment of a servicemember and a marine. His dedication to the values of the Marine Corps and full-fledged devotion to what is right will remain with us forever. He will never be forgotten.

As the preparations are made to inter him along with other American heroes at Arlington National Cemetery, he can behold what the Marine Corps hymn promises and millions of good marines before him have seen: On Heaven's scenes, you will find the streets are guarded by United States marines.

Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover joined the ranks of American heroes before him, always faithful. May God rest his soul, may God comfort his family, and may God bless us with the honor, courage, and commitment that Taylor Hoover truly lived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING CORPORAL DAEGAN WILLIAM-TYELER
PAGE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, last Friday, I joined Nebraskans to honor the dignified return of Cpl Daegan William-Tyler Page of the U.S. Marine Corps, one of 13 servicemembers killed in the terrorist attack at the Kabul airport. It was heart-breaking, but to see the thousands of

people who lined the streets of Omaha between Eppley Airfield and Braman Mortuary was truly amazing. The outpouring of honor by the community during the procession was a solemn display of Nebraskans' love for one another and for this country. Nebraskans showed their gratitude for Corporal Page's service and offered support to his grieving family.

Corporal Page was only 23 years old when his life was needlessly cut short in Kabul. He was born in Iowa, but his family moved to Nebraska when he was 5.

He was a proud U.S. marine. He enlisted shortly after graduating from Millard South High School in Omaha. He was stationed in Pendleton, CA, but multiple deployments took him all around the world, to Japan, South Korea, Australia, Jordan, and Afghanistan.

After he finished his service, he planned to attend trade school in Nebraska, hoping to eventually become a lineman.

Corporal Page was also a beloved son, brother, grandson, and friend. He was especially adored by his younger siblings. To them, his family said, he was not just a hero in the Marines; he was their real-life hero, too.

And he had a soft spot in his heart for animals, most of all his three dogs.

He loved hockey. He played on a State champion club team in high school, Omaha Westside. And he was a diehard fan of the Chicago Blackhawks.

He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 331, where he gained an appreciation for the outdoors and of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Millard.

Hunting and being outside with his dad were among his favorite ways to spend his time, but he was also an avid skateboarder, amateur photographer, and an excellent sketch artist.

His family has asked Americans to remember him for his "fun-loving spirit, tough outer shell, and [his] giant heart."

Corporal Page's dignified return to Omaha came just 1 day before the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which brought us to Afghanistan in the first place. He was just 3 years old on September 11, 2001, and his death came at the very end of a war that had lasted nearly his entire lifetime.

We are also going to hear this afternoon about the other servicemembers who lost their lives in Kabul on August 26. Like Corporal Page, most of these men and women had their whole lives ahead of them. Like Corporal Page, most of them were probably too young to have any memory of the event that took us to the country where they gave their lives. His sacrifice and that of these 12 other servicemembers must not be in vain. It is now up to us, both here in Congress and in our daily lives across this country, to live up to the lofty example that is set by their selflessness.

I ask that we remember him and his family in our prayers and that he rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT TAYLOR HOOVER

Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, this past weekend, we gathered to reflect on the anniversary of a national tragedy. The visible and invisible wounds incurred on that day continue to impact the lives of all of us.

In the last two decades since 9/11, our Nation has demonstrated enormous resilience, imponderable sacrifice, and pursued justice in dangerous lands, often under perilous conditions. We have asked our servicemembers to do so very much to keep us safe, and they have responded with uncommon courage. Last month, 13 of our Nation's finest upheld their sacred oath at the cost of their lives.

They were struck down by the cowardice of terrorists while, at the same time, they were helping innocent Afghan civilians reach a better life. Over 100 Afghan civilians were also killed on August 26 in that terrorist attack at the Kabul airport, and many more were grievously wounded. We also hold in our hearts the American servicemembers who suffered those terrible injuries that day.

On September 11, 2001, Taylor Hoover, from Sandy, UT, was just 11 years old. Nine years later, he was a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps. He would go on to serve three tours of duty in Afghanistan and earned both the respect of his fellow soldiers abroad and the admiration of those who knew him well and loved him here at home.

As we recently gathered in Salt Lake City to mourn the life of Staff Sergeant Hoover, it was clear that this deep admiration was shared by thousands of the people of Utah. While our hearts were heavy with grief as his family shared their memories of Staff Sergeant Hoover, they were embraced by the crowd one by one as the ceremony concluded, and our communal bonds emerged ever stronger.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL WYATT WILSON

Madam President, another brave Utahn also risked his life and sustained life-threatening injury while supporting the evacuation operations at the Kabul airport that day. Our Nation thanks you, Cpl Wyatt Wilson, and we pray for your complete and speedy recovery. You and your brothers and sisters in arms have answered the call to serve with valor and devotion, and your service rendered continues to protect us to this day.

Let us carry forward these shared values and reflections on sacrifice in our daily lives and endeavor to strengthen our national bonds of unity.

May God bless our Nation's fallen and our wounded, and may He bless also their families and all the servicemembers who are today in harm's way. We are indebted to those known for their bravery, sacrifice, and heroism.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING HOSPITAL CORPSMAN THIRD CLASS
MAXTON SOVIAK

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am here today on the floor to remember the life of Navy Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman Third Class Maxton Soviak. Max was a 22-year-old native of Berlin Heights, OH, a young patriot who died far too soon in service to all of us.

Max was one of 13 brave American service men and women who were tragically killed when an ISIS-K suicide bomber in Kabul on August 26 exploded a bomb that wounded dozens of others and killed many Afghans. He was there working to evacuate Americans and Afghan allies from a city that was suddenly overrun by the Taliban.

Max was a special guy. They say he was quick to make friends and quick to earn the respect of those he interacted with. As a student at Edison High School, Max was a member of the wrestling team that won the 2016 State championship and a football team that made it to the semifinals 2 years in a row. He was an athlete and a leader. He achieved the rank of Life Scout, the second highest rank a scout can reach. He was a lover of the outdoors, spending his free time doing rock climbing, skiing, scuba diving, and other extreme sports.

And he was one of those rare individuals who, at a young age, had that drive to defend his Nation as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. He joined the Navy and was signed as a Fleet Marine Force hospital corpsman, serving side by side with the infantry marines of the Second Battalion, First Marine Regiment.

Affectionately known as a “devil doc,” a takeoff on the Marines’ “devil dog” nickname, Max was a member of a select group of medical specialists trained to operate side by side with the men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps on the frontlines, just as he was doing in Kabul the day he died, helping evacuate Americans and our allies who were fleeing the tyranny of the Taliban.

In his far too short time with us, Max did his duty, and he did it with distinction and valor. He took care of his marines and, while in Kabul, cared for innocent Afghans who were fleeing the Taliban.

Kathleen, Max’s sister, said it well: “In Maxton’s final days, he spent his time helping others stay alive, as he had developed a passion for saving the lives of others, so much so, that he was willing to risk his own life and made the ultimate sacrifice.” So true.

Before the attack in Kabul, Max was able to FaceTime his mom, Rachel. As they said their good-byes, his mom told him to be safe.

Max replied:

Don’t worry, mom, my guys got me. They won’t let anything happen to me.

That was the last time she spoke to him before Max and his fellow marines and soldiers gave their lives in service of keeping so many others—moms,

dads, kids, and fellow servicemembers—safe. He didn’t want anything to happen to us.

For his bravery and sacrifice, Max was awarded the Purple Heart and a Combat Action Ribbon. When he came home to Berlin Heights, OH, he was greeted with a hero’s welcome that he richly deserved. Families lined the streets as his casket, draped in the American flag, was brought home to his family.

When I visited his hometown over the weekend to deliver an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of his service, there were flags in every yard and posters and flowers; you could sense the love and support for Max and for his family from his grateful neighbors. Yesterday, hundreds came to the Edison High School football stadium, where Max had helped lead the Chargers to victory time and time again; they came to pay their last respects to an honorable American life taken too soon in service of all of us.

Max’s sacrifice, along with that of the other marines and soldiers who died or were grievously wounded that day, reminds us of how blessed we are to have such courageous and selfless fellow citizens willing to stand guard for us. We must be grateful for the sacrifices our troops make every day to keep America safe. My thoughts and prayers are with Max’s parents, Kip and Rachel Soviak, and his entire family, as well as those he knew and who loved him. May God comfort them in the days and weeks ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL RYLEE MCCOLLUM

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, Wyoming’s heart is heavy with grief today. I rise to honor the life, sacrifice, and memory of Wyoming native LCpl Rylee McCollum. He, along with 12 of his fellow servicemembers, lost their lives while defending the airport in Kabul as American citizens and allies escaped the clutches of the Taliban. Their selfless service and sacrifice will be honored and remembered, and they will be forever cherished by a grateful nation.

Rylee was a Wyoming guy through and through. His life’s goal of serving in the U.S. Marine Corps began seemingly while he was still in diapers, before he could even comprehend what that entailed. He was born with the heart of a soldier.

He joined the military right out of high school. He heard the call to defend our Nation, and he didn’t hesitate to answer that call. He had plans to become a history teacher and coach once he finished his commitment to the Marines. He was about to become a father.

I had the opportunity to meet with some of Rylee’s family this past weekend. I had the great honor of expressing my deepest appreciation of Rylee’s sacrifice to them in person on behalf of a very grateful Wyoming. Wyoming’s very special way of honoring its beloved Rylee was on full display last Friday.

People waving American flags lined the streets of Jackson to give Rylee a hero’s welcome as his remains were returned home. The people of Wyoming are heartbroken but infinitely proud of his bravery and sacrifice.

Just yesterday, September 13, 2021, Rylee’s family welcomed into the world his daughter, Levi Rylee Rose—8 pounds, 10 ounces. Although she will never meet her father, who was killed before she was born, she will be surrounded by love from mother Gigi, proud grandfather Jim McCollum, Rylee’s sisters, and many other relatives who will share with Levi what a wonderful and heroic father she had.

Our hearts, our love, our prayers, and our embrace are with Rylee’s wife, child, friends, and family as they grieve his loss and remember his bravery.

Madam President, Wyoming will never ever forget.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING CORPORAL DAEGAN WILLIAM TYELER
PAGE

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in memory and in honor of Corporal Page, a 23-year-old marine from Nebraska. He gave his life defending Americans and our allies in the chaos of the Kabul airport as many tried to escape the capture of Afghanistan by a band of blood-thirsty terrorists.

Corporal Page is 1 of 13 heroes who gave his life that day defending the Kabul airport in the midst of that chaotic evacuation. The American people owe these men and women a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay.

Corporal Page lost his life while honoring our Nation’s promise that we would leave no one behind. He and his fellow marines never wavered. They didn’t fail in executing their duty. They were given an impossible mission, and these men and women fought to the end. It is now our duty to stand with these families, the families of each of these 13, and to honor their sacrifices.

Last Friday, in Omaha, thousands and thousands and thousands of Nebraskans lined the streets to give Corporal Page a hero’s welcome as his body was returned home. As his family said, “Our hearts are still broken, but we are the lucky few who know what it is” to have the entire city of Omaha give you a hug.

We are called to gather around one another. We are called to join with the grieving and to mourn the loss of these brave men and women.

Corporal Page was a Nebraskan who made his family and his State and his entire Nation proud. He left for boot camp shortly after graduating from Millard South High School, and he was proud to serve in the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment with his fellow marines.

He enjoyed playing hockey. One of my kids played hockey against him. He